

UROLOGIC ROENTGENOLOGY. By Miley B. Wesson, M.D., Past President, American Urological Association. Third Edition, Thoroughly Revised, with 284 Illustrations. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$7.50.

The third edition of Wesson's book has been thoroughly revised and rewritten. For many years Dr. Wesson has edited and reviewed most of the urologic papers presented before the meetings of the Western Section of the American Urological Association. His long experience in editorial work has given him an understanding of the needs and reading habits of doctors. He has a manner and style of writing all his own, concise, easy to read, and complete. In his book the newer procedures of urography, including technique, pitfalls and complications, are thoroughly discussed and there are instructive chapters on the history and technique of urography. Many new illustrations have been added, the book in general depicting almost all urologic conditions. The urograms, mostly from the author's cases, some winnowed from the urologic clinics throughout the country, are reproduced clearly on excellent paper. Each picture is accompanied by a brief history, many containing data concerning surgical or necropsy findings.

The book is compact and easy to handle, and there is a satisfactory, up-to-date bibliography at the end of each section. It is a satisfactory consultation source for students, general practitioners who want aid in interpreting films of their patients, and for the urologist who needs help in reviewing an unusual case.

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DOCTOR AND PATIENT AND THE LAW. By Louis J. Regan, M.D., LL.B., Member State Bar of California; Professor of Legal Medicine, College of Medical Evangelists. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$10.00.

The second edition of this book, which has just appeared, has been augmented by the addition of new sections which are most important for a complete treatise on the subject of the connection of law and medicine. Also new material and court decisions have been added.

While this book will necessarily be a valuable reference guide, it is also one that is readable and of the utmost interest. It is the kind of volume that the doctor will want to take home with him and read from cover to cover before returning it to his office library for reference. The many cases described are each a short story and one cannot but feel compassion for the physicians who have gone through the mental anguish and loss of valuable time and money in their experiences in the courts. The author has been most careful in not making the volume too technical, and no lawyer who was not also a doctor could have so deftly presented the subject in the manner in which the matter is described for a medical reader.

Physicians are apt to consider the subject of malpractice to be only one in which they should have legal concern. Such things as artificial insemination, dying declarations, consent for operation, sterilization, adoption, matters pertaining to the insane, are only a few examples of legal points with which the physician should be conversant. All of these subjects are understandingly outlined.

There is no doubt that this book is good prophylaxis, and if one could keep in mind constantly the advice and warning contained therein many of the minor as well as the major difficulties the doctor gets into aside from his clinical work could be avoided. As a code for proper professional conduct there has nothing yet been presented that so precisely fills the need. Undoubtedly this volume will become a classic. While it is needful that the clinician arm himself with technical treatises, the practicing physician, after all, is a public character and his activities extend beyond technical procedures. It is just as essential that he be aware

of his legal obligations and how to protect himself as it is for him to know how to treat the patient. This book is as needful to a well rounded office library, no matter how small, as is a good book on anatomy.

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MODERN SURGICAL TECHNIQUE—Second Edition. Edited by Max Thorek, M.D., LL.D., Sc.D., F.I.C.S., D.C.M. Professor of Surgery, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. Four Volumes and an Index Volume. Volume One: General Operative Considerations; Surgery of the Head and Neck; and Principles of Plastic Surgery. Volume Two: Neurosurgery; Vascular Surgery; Thoracic Surgery; and Orthopedic Surgery. Volume Three: Surgery of the Abdomen and Surgery of the Breast. Volume Four: Gynecologic Surgery; Urologic Surgery and Hernia Repair. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$72.00.

The second edition of this successful set of books on surgical technique has followed 11 printings of the first issue, published in 1938, affording ample testimony of its popularity. It is now fully embellished with medical illustrations by Shepard, Freret and Bartenbach, as well as some of the color plates of Peham and Amreich. The type is now set in two columns on one page, a form adopted by other modern textbooks. It has been necessary to add another volume, making four in all, to include over one thousand new pages.

In a chapter entitled "Selection and Management of Poor Risk Patients," various conditions such as diabetes, nephritis, obesity and surgery in infancy and old age are discussed. In subsequent sections, greater consideration is given to postoperative care. The section on blood transfusion is excellent.

A good many procedures not usually included in the scope of general surgery are described and illustrated. The author states he has done this so that the surgeon can be acquainted with the current procedures in all branches of surgical knowledge, for in an emergency he may be called upon to perform an operation not generally included in his domain.

The section on the surgery of the thorax, which formerly required 159 pages, now requires 200, mostly because of the new cardiovascular operations. In the section on orthopedic surgery, it is regrettable that the Bunnell-Howard pull-out wire method of tendon suture was not described. There is an excellent review of the various methods used in local and regional anesthesia, but the dangers of local anesthesia and tourniquets in the surgery of the infected finger are not stressed. Practically all the common operative procedures on the gastrointestinal tract are clearly illustrated. It might be questioned whether it is necessary or advisable to include such mechanical devices as the Murphy button in a system of modern surgical technique.

The set is recommended as a handy reference for student, general surgeon, and surgical libraries.

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BRITISH SURGICAL PRACTICE. Volumes III, IV and V. Under the General Editorship of Sir Ernest Rock Carling, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., Consulting Surgeon, Westminster Hospital, and J. Patterson Ross, M.S., F.R.C.S., Surgeon and Director of Surgical Clinical Unit, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Professor of Surgery, University of London. In Eight Volumes. Butterworth & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., London, England—The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1948. \$15.00 per volume.

These three books represent three more volumes of the contemplated eight volumes of the series on British Surgical Practice. Volume III deals with subjects from cesarean section to eyelids and covers such diverse subjects as carotid body, cellulitis, cervical rib, cicatrices, cisternal puncture, colonic diseases, compensations, constipation, cornea, patent ductus, ear surgery, endoscopy, and eye surgery. Volume IV covers surgery from facial palsy to hiccups, discussing facial injuries, fascial disorders, fistula, focal